

## Mayor's Monthly Message: December 2020

Here we are amidst the 2020 Holiday Season! I always look forward to this time of year because the holidays tend to bring out the best in all of us. December is a time for holiday traditions with family and friends. It is also a time to reflect on 2020 and all that has happened over the past year. The challenges we faced bring strength and refinement. The lessons that we've learned, give us the knowledge to make better decisions. Lastly, the gratitude we have in our hearts help us have a deeper understanding and respect in every aspect of our life. In our great town of Florence, AZ, you don't have to look very far to find kindness and selflessness on display, especially during this time of year. As is the case in many communities, we are blessed with a variety of local civic organizations that regularly host events and fund raisers in support of good causes. In addition to the outstanding civic organizations that make Florence a wonderful community, we also have many individual residents who donate their time, talents, and treasures.

During this holiday season, I would like to give a heartfelt 'Thank You' for the accomplishments this year. First of all, to our many businesses and governmental agencies providing employment opportunities and contribute to our local economy. I sincerely appreciate your commitment to our town, hard work, and quality of services. To those who are serving in the capacity as a volunteer and in community groups, thank you for making our Town one of the best places for anyone to live and for enriching and enhancing the lives of others. Last, but not least, our Town of Florence employees, thank you for all that you do each and every day. Your dedication, loyalty, and hard work are very much appreciated. It is an honor to serve as your mayor and I'll continue to work hard to bring positive growth into our community, while maintaining our #1 Safe Town in AZ. There are many exciting projects in the planning stages for the upcoming year.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Clause will be cruising around town. This Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Santa will be cruising the streets of Florence and Anthem. If you would like a live location feed, you can register here, and we will send you the link to keep up with Santa's location. <https://bit.ly/37kQd0c> For more information, call (520) 868-7040.

The Town of Florence tried something different this year, in an effort to support the community as a whole. The events last all month. We had the lighting of Silver King and Main St last Friday; The Polar Express Drove In Movie last Night; Every day/night, we are offering ice skating on the rink that was brought into Town; bringing in food vendors, musicians and coordinate with business, as bringing people downtown to the shops supports them. Our Parks n Rec also has created maps to view decorated homes during the season. Here is a link to

more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/148734321814905/posts/3723459284342373/>

Experience Historic Downtown Main Street like you have never seen it before! Main Street is set to be illuminated with lights. Local shops will be adorned with festive decorations. Holiday music will echo through the streets. And, for the first time ever, a synthetic ice skating rink will be coming to downtown Florence, at Jaques Square! Visit <https://www.florenceaz.gov/hometownholiday> for more information.

Looking for something to do on December 19th? Come on down to Florence and join us for "Old West Days". Good food, old west gun fight and much, much more.

Clearly, we have a lot of reasons to be thankful in Florence, AZ. As a final thought of the 2019 year to all of our residents, thank you again for this opportunity to serve you, it means the world to me to give back to our town and help make the future a better and more beautiful place for generations to come. My wish for you and yours is to have a peaceful and joyous holiday season and a prosperous, happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Tara Walter  
Mayor of Florence, AZ